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18. (Amended) A sugar-free hard-coated comestible having an edible, chewable and/or pharmaceutical core, and a hard coating wherein the hard coating includes at least one layer formed from a syrup mixture containing sorbitol and erythritol, wherein the syrup mixture contains 1% to 50% w/w erythritol, said layer contacting said core, said syrup mixture being such that an essentially homogeneous layer is obtained.

Please the following new claim:

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19. (New) A sugar-free hard-coated comestible according to claim 1, wherein said at least one layer is a first formed on said core, and additional layers in said hard coating are formed from a member selected from the group consisting of said liquid mixture and single polyols.

See Appendix for amendments.